

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 02077 211512Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /050 W
-----211537Z 024846 /46

R 211415Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3546
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN TRYT
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 2077

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TU, IR
SUBJ: MILLIYET INTERVIEW WITH THE SHAH

1. MASS-CIRCULATION LIBERAL-REFORMIST DAILY MILLIYET ON MARCH 20 CARRIED INTERVIEW BETWEEN CORRESPONDENT LEYLA UMAR AND THE SHAH. FOLLOWING EXTRACTS ARE MOST SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS, COVERING IRANIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS, RCD, IRANIAN-IRAQI RELATIONS, AND IRAN'S FUTURE.

2. ON A POSSIBLE ECONOMIC "MARRIAGE" BETWEEN IRAN AND TURKEY: "THIS IS A SUBJECT WHICH HAS LONG BEEN DEBATED. BU IT IS EASY TO TALK AND HARD TO ACT. THE TWO NATIONS ARE TOO PROUD...THE TWO NATIONS ARE TRYING TO ENTER THE EEC IN COMPETITION WITH EACH OTHER. THE RCD HAS BECOME AN AGREEMENT WHICH HAS NOT YEILDED THE EXPECTED RESULTS. BUT DON'T FORGET THIS: TURKEY'S POSITION ON TRANSIT FEES HAS BROUGHT FORTH A REACTION FROM ALL NATIONS. IN MY OPINION, EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD DEPENDS ON THE ECONOMY. CERTAINLY IF YOU DO NOT GIVE REASONABLE CONCESSIONS IN THIS MARRIAGE, WE WILL BE OBLIGED TO ESTABLISH OTHER RELATIONS. BUT YOU
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SHOULD HAVE NO DOUBT THAT WE ARE CLOSE TO YOU EMOTIONALLY."

3. ON THE SHAH'S ALLEGED STATEMENT THAT "AMERICA IS OUR TRUE FRIEND, THE ONLY ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS US, AND IRAQ IS OUR BIGGEST ENEMY": "I CALLED AMERICA' ONE OF OUR FRIENDS.' AND THAT IS ONLY ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY DON'T INTERFERE WITH OUR INDEPENDENCE. IRAQ IS A STATE WITH WHICH AT ANY

MOMENT WAR COULD BREAK OUT. AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF
ATTACKS BY HER AND OTHER NEIGHBORS, WE HAVE EVERY KIND OF
WEAPON WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ATOM BOMB."

4. ON IRAN'S FUTURE: "MY MAIN PROBLEM IS TO PROVE THE
BELIEF OF QUITE A FEW ECONOMISTS AND MAKE IRAN INTO A GREAT
STATE LIKE AMERICA, RUSSIA, JAPAN, AND FRANCE AFTER 66 YEARS.
I AM TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT DESPITE MY TAKING STRICT
MEASURES, AT THAT TIME OUR POPULATION WILL BE SIX-FOLD."
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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